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Letter dated 20 April 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to request that the summary by the Government of Iraq concerning the Baghdad meeting of the countries neighbouring Iraq, the permanent members of the Security Council and international and regional organizations, which was held in Baghdad on 10 March 2007 (see annex), be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) T. Hamid **Al-Bayati**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
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Annex to the letter dated 20 April 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic and English]

Baghdad meeting of the countries neighbouring Iraq, the permanent members of the Security Council and international and regional organizations

10 March 2007

At the invitation of the Government of Iraq, senior officials from the countries neighbouring Iraq, representatives of the United Nations, the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and the ambassadors of the United Nations Security Council permanent member States met in Baghdad today to discuss measures to support the Government's action to improve the current situation in Iraq, and to prepare for a later meeting of Foreign Ministers that will decide on these measures.

The meeting, held at Iraq's Foreign Ministry, was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Iraq, Mr. Nouri al-Maliki, with a speech in which he reviewed the situation, and reported on the latest developments in the Government's efforts to achieve national reconciliation and establish the rule of law.

The Iraqi delegation to the meeting was headed by the Foreign Minister of Iraq, Mr. Hoshyar Zebari.

All participants expressed their support for Iraq's sovereignty, independence, national unity and territorial integrity. They recognized the principle of non-interference in Iraq's internal affairs, and the necessity to prevent Iraq becoming a theatre for settling scores among them. They also expressed their support and backing for the Iraqi Government's efforts to achieve national reconciliation through a number of mechanisms, including mandated constitutional review.

The participants expressed their deep concern about sectarian and ethnic violence, expressed their concern and condemnation of the terrorism and continuing acts of violence that target Iraq's civilian population and its civil, educational, economic and religious institutions, and emphasized their support for Iraq in its efforts to confront terrorism and sectarian violence.

The participants also expressed their support for the efforts of the Iraqi Government to fight terrorism and enhance security in Iraq and the region, particularly by implementing the measures adopted by the Foreign and Interior Ministers of the countries neighbouring Iraq, measures including better coordination and cooperation between their security agencies, better border controls, and interdiction of the crossing of terrorist suspects through joint borders with Iraq.

The participants emphasized their support to the international conference project (International Compact with Iraq) within the framework of the United Nations and the resulting international cooperation and support for Iraq.

The participants expressed their thanks to the countries that host large numbers of Iraqi refugees and displaced persons. The Iraqi Government pledged to shoulder its responsibility, in cooperation with these countries and international organizations, and assist in providing support to create conditions that would allow the return of the refugees and displaced persons to the country.

The Iraqi delegation proposed to form three expert working groups to address the following issues, with the support of the United Nations and any of the neighbouring countries that wish to participate voluntarily:

- Security cooperation and coordination
- Iraqi refugees and displaced persons
- Fuel and energy supplies.

These working groups should meet as soon as possible, preferably before the end of this month, so that they can present their conclusions and recommendations to the meeting of Foreign Ministers.

The participants reiterated the statement of the Foreign Ministers meeting in Tehran to hold the next meeting at the level of Foreign Ministers in Baghdad and took note of Egypt's proposal to hold the neighbouring countries' meeting in Cairo as well as Turkey's proposal to hold an expanded meeting in Istanbul, and authorized Iraq's Foreign Minister to consult with his counterparts in order to determine the date, place and scope of participation as soon as possible.

In conclusion, the participants expressed their thanks to the Government of the Republic of Iraq for hosting this meeting, emphasizing its importance and the political message of support their attendance in Baghdad conveys. This importance is underscored by the fact that it is the first meeting at this level held in Baghdad since 1990.